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PRESS RELEASE

Project HOPE and USAID help to open a TB Training Center at the Turkmen State Medical Institute

On September 18, 2007, with the support from Project HOPE and USAID, a training center was opened at the Department of Tuberculosis of the Turkmen State Medical Institute. The center will help to prepare country's medical specialists for the implementation of the Turkmenistan National Tuberculosis Control Program, based on the Directly-Observed Tuberculosis Treatment Short-course strategy (DOTS).

Project HOPE, with funding from USAID, bought training equipment, furniture, air conditioning units, and educational materials for the center. In addition to trainings, the center will also be used for conferences, lectures, panel discussions, meetings of thematic groups and other activities.

Tuberculosis control is a priority for the Government of Turkmenistan, which has decreed national implementation of the DOTS strategy for Tuberculosis control by 2009. Project HOPE and USAID provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry on implementation of DOTS in the cities of Ashgabat, Turkmenbashi, Dushak, Balkanabad, and Mary.

Tuberculosis control and prevention is one of the many areas, supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is the largest donor organization in Turkmenistan. Its programs support country's community organizations, help agricultural enterprises to improve their productivity and competitiveness, and assist the Government of Turkmenistan in its efforts to adopt international health care practices.

With funding from USAID, Project HOPE works in Turkmenistan since 2000 and implements a multi-component program to provide assistance to the Government of Turkmenistan in the improvement of quality and accessibility of medical services, to improve the awareness of the population about tuberculosis treatment and prevention.

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